

M E R

Sometimes towards heav'n, and the full blazing Sun,
Which now far high in the *meridian* tow'r. *Milton.*

2. Extended from North to South.
Compare the *meridian* line afforded by magnetical needles with one mathematically drawn, and observe the variation of the needle, or its declination from the true *meridian* line. *Boyle.*

3. Raised to the highest point.
MÉRIDIONAL. *adj.* [*meridional*, French.]

1. Southern.
In the southern coast of America or Africa, the southern point varieth toward the land, as being disposed that way by the *meridional* or proper hemisphere. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

2. Southerly; having a southern aspect.
All offices that require heat, as kitchens, stillatories, and rooves, would be *meridional*. *Wotton's Architect.*

MÉRIDIONA'LITY. *n. f.* [*from meridional*.] Position in the South; aspect towards the South.

MÉRIDIONALLY. *adv.* [*from meridional*.] With a southern aspect.
The Jews, not willing to lie as their temple stood, do place their bed from North to South, and delight to sleep *meridionally*. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. ii.*

MÉRIT. *n. f.* [*meritum*, Latin; *merite*, French.]

1. Desert; excellence deserving honour or reward.
You have the captives; use them
As we shall find their *merits* and our safety
May equally determine. *Shakesp. King Lear.*
She deem'd I well deserv'd to die,
And made a *merit* of her cruelty. *Dryden.*
Rofcommon, not more learn'd than good,
With manners gen'rous as his noble blood;
To him the wit of Greece and Rome was known,
And ev'ry author's *merit* but his own. *Pope.*
She valu'd nothing less
Than titles, figure, shape, and drefs;
That *merit* should be chiefly plac'd
In judgment, knowledge, wit, and taste. *Swift.*

2. Reward deferred.
Those laurel groves, the *merits* of thy youth,
Which thou from Mahomet didst greatly gain,
While bold assertor of reffless truth,
Thy sword did godlike liberty maintain. *Prior.*

3. Claim; right.
As I am fiducious to promote the honour of my native country, I put Chaucer's *merits* to the trial, by turning fomes of the Canterbury tales into our language. *Dryden.*
When a point hath been well examined, and our own judgment settled, after a large survey of the *merits* of the cause, it will be a weakness to continue fluttering. *Watts.*

To *MÉRIT.* *v. a.* [*meriter*, French.]

1. To deserve; to have a right to claim any thing as deserved.
Amplely have *merited* of me, of all
Th' infernal empire. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*
A man at best is incapable of *meriting* any thing from God. *South's Sermons.*

2. To deserve; to earn; it is used generally of good, but sometimes of ill.
Whatsoever jewels I have *merited*, I am sure I have received none, unless experience be a jewel; that I have purchased at an infinite rate. *Shakesp. Merry Wives of Windsor.*
If such rewards to vanquish'd men are due,
What prize may Nilus from your bounty claim,
Who *merited* the first rewards, and fame? *Dryden.*

MÉRITORIOUS. *adj.* [*meritoire*, Fr. from *merit*.] Deserving of reward; high in desert.
Instead of so great and *meritorious* a service, in bringing all the Irish to acknowledge the king for their liege, they did great hurt. *Spenser on Ireland.*
The war that hath such a foundation will not only be rewarded just, but holy and *meritorious*. *Raleigh's Effigies.*
A most sufficient means of redemption and salvation, by the satisfactory and *meritorious* death and obedience of the incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, God blessed for ever. *Bishop Sander's Sermons.*

This is not the most prudent, but the most *meritorious* charity, which we can practice. *Addison's Spectator.*

MÉRITORIOUSLY. *adv.* [*from meritorious*.] In such a manner as to deserve reward.
He carried himself *meritoriously* in foreign employment in time of the interdict, which held up his credit among the patriots. *Wotton.*

MÉRITORIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [*from meritorious*.] The act or state of deserving well.
There was a full perfunction of the high *meritoriousness* of what they did; but still there was no law of God to ground it upon, and consequently it was not conscience. *South.*

MÉRITOIN. *n. f.* [*offitium*, Lat.] A kind of play.

MÉRIT. *n. f.* A kind of hawk.
Not yielding over to old age his country delights; he was at that time following a *merlin*. *Sidney.*

MER

MERMAID. *n. f.* [*mer*, the sea, and *maid*.] A sea woman; and
 an animal with a woman's head and fish's tail.
 I'll drown more failers than the mermaid shall. *Shakespeare.*
 Thou rememberest,
 Since once I fat upon a promontory,
 And heard a mermaid on a dolphin's back
 Uttering such dulcet and harmonious breath,
 That the rude fæa grew civil at her long. *Shakespeare.*
 Did fensse persuade Ulysses not to hear.
 The mermaids songs, which fo his men did please,
 That they were all persuaded, through the ear,
 To quit the ship and leap into the seas? *Davies.*
 Few eyes have escaped the picture of a mermaid: Horace
 his monster, with woman's head above and filthy extremities
 below, answers the shape of the ancient syrens that attempted
 upon Ulysses. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. v.*
 MERMAID'S TRUMPET. *n. f.* A kind of fish. *Atty.*
 MERRY. *adv.* [from *merry*.]
 1. Gaily; civilly; cheerfully; with mirth; with gaiety; with
 laughter.
 Merrily, merrily, shall we live now,
 Under the blossom that hangs on the bough. *Shakespeare.*
 When men come to borrow of your masters, they ap-
 proach fadly, and go away merrily. *Shakespeare, Timon of Athens.*
 You have ended my bulfinches, and I will merrily accompany
 you home. *Shakespeare's Cæsarion.*
 A paifan of France thinks of no more than his coarfe
 bread and his onions, his canva's clothes and wooden fhoes,
 labours contentedly on working days, and dances or plays
 merrily on holidays. *Tamplé's Mijed.*
 Merrily fing, and fport, and play,
 For 'tis Oria'na's nuptial day. *Granville.*
 MERRIMAKE. *n. f.* [*merry* and *make*.] A feftival; a meeting
 for mirth.
 Thenot now nis the time of merrymake,
 Nor Pan to herio, nor with love to play,
 Sike mirth in May is meetest for to make,
 Or Summer shade, under the cocked hay. *Spenser's Poet.*
 The knight did not forbear,
 Her honeft mirth and pleasure to partake,
 But when he faw her gibe, and toy, and geare,
 And pafs the bounds of modeft merrymake,
 Her dalliance he defpised. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*
 To MERRIMAKE. *v. a.* To feaft; to be jovial.
 With thee 'twas Marian's dear delight
 To moil all day, and merrimake at night. *Gay's Pastorals.*
 MERRIMENT. *n. f.* [from *merry*.] Mirth; gaiety; cheerful-
 nefs; laughter.
 Who when they heard that piteous strained voice,
 In hafte forfook their rural merriment. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*
 A number of merriments and jells, wherewith they have
 pleafantly moved much laughter at our manner of ferving
 God. *Hooker, b. v.*
 Methought it was the found
 Of riot and ill-managed merriment. *Milten.*
 MERRINESS. *n. f.* [from *merry*.] Mirth; mery difpofition.
 The file fhall give us caufe to climb in the merriness. *Shak.*
 MERRY. *adj.*
 1. Laughing; loudly cheerful; gay of heart.
 They drank and were merry with him. *Gm. xliii. 24.*
 The vine languifheth, all the merry-hearted figh. *Ifa. xxxv.*
 Some that are of an ill and melancholy nature, incline the
 company into which they come to be fad and ill-difpofed;
 and others that are of a jovial nature, do difpofe the com-
 pany to be merry and cheerful. *Bacon's Nat. Hift.*
 Man is the merriest fpecies of the creation; all above and
 below him are ferious. *Addifon.*
 2. Caufing laughter.
 You kill'd d'r husband, and for that vile fault
 Two of d'r brothers were condemn'd to death;
 My hand cut off, and made a merry jeft. *Shakespeare.*
 3. Prosperous.
 In my fmall pinnace I can fail,
 Contenting all the bluffing roar;
 And running with a merry gale,
 With friendly flars my fafety feeke,
 Within fome little winding creek,
 And fee the storm afores. *Dryden.*
 To make MERRY. To junket; to be jovial.
 They trod the grapes and made merry, and went into the
 houfe of their God. *Jude. ix. 27.*
 A fox 'py'd a bevy of jolly, goffiping wenches making
 merry over a difh of pullets. *L'Etrange.*
 MERRY-ANDREW. *n. f.* A buffoon; a zany; a jack-pudding.
 He would be a ftateman becaufe he is a buffoon; as if
 there went no more to the making of a counfeller than the
 faculties of a merry-andrew or tumbler. *L'Etrange.*
 The firft who made the experiment was a merry-an-
 drew. *Speclator, N^o. 599.*

M E S

MERRYTHOUGHT. *n. f.* [*merry* and *thought*.] A forked bone on the body of fowls; so called because boys and girls pull in play at the two sides, the longest part broken off betokening priority of marriage.

Let him not be breaking *merrythoughts* under the table with my cousin.

MESSENGER. *n. f.* [*μεσσηγορος*, *mesajigoro*, Fr. analogy requires it *mesajick*.] Belonging to the mencytery.

It taketh leave of the permanent parts at the mouths of the *mesajicks*, and accompanieth the inconvertible portion into the siege.

The most futile part of the chyle passeth immediately into the blood by the absorbent vessels of the guts, which discharge themselves into the *mesajick* veins.

MESSESON. *n. f.* [*mesio*, Lat.] The act of sinking, or thrusting over head.

MESSEMS, imperforal verb. [*me* and *seems*, or it *seems* to me:] for this word it is now too common to use *methinks* or *methought*, an ungrammatical word.] I think; it appears to me; methinks.

Alas, of ghosts I hear the gaffly cries;
Yet there, *mesems*, I hear her finging loud.

Mesemed by my side a royal maid,
Her dainty limbs fall softly down did lay.

To that general subjection of the land *mesems* that the custom or tenure can be no bar nor impeachment.

MESSENTERY. *n. f.* [*mesenterio*, *mesentere*, Fr.] That round which the guts are convolved.

When the chyle passeth through the *mesentery*, it is mixed with the lymph.

MESSENTERICK. *adj.* [*mesenterique*, French, from *mesentery*.] Relating to the mesentery.

They are carried into the glands of the *mesentery*, receiving a fine lymph from the lymphatic ducts, which dilutes this chylous fluid, and scours its containing vessels, which, from the *mesenterick* glands, unite in large channels, and pass directly into the common receptacle of the chyle.

MESH. *n. f.* [*masche*, Dutch; *masche*, old French: it were therefore better written, as it is commonly pronounced, *malsh*.] The interstice of a net; the space between the threads of a net.

The drovers hang square nets athwart the tide, thorough which the shoal of pilchard passing, leave many behind entangled in the *meshes*.

Such a hare is maddest the youth, to skip o'er the *meshes* of good counsel the cripple.

He preads his subtle nets from fight,
With twinkling glassies to betray
The larks that in the *meshes* light.

With all their mouths the nerves the spirits drink,
Which through the cells of the fine strainers sink:
These all the channel'd fibres ev'ry way,
For motion and sensation, fill convey:
The greatest portion of th' arterial blood,
By the close structure of the parts withoutlood,
Whose narrow *meshes* stop the grofferlood.

To **MESH.** *v. a.* [from the noun.] To catch in a net; to entangle.

The flies by chance *mesht* in her hair,
By the bright radiance thrown
From her clear eyes, rich jewels were,
They lo like diamonds fione.

MESHV. *adj.* [from *mesh*.] Reticulated; or net-work.

Some build his house, but thence his issue barre,
Some make his *meshv* bed, but leave his rest.
Caught in the *meshv* snare, in vain they beat

Their idle wings.

MESLIN. *n. f.* [from *meslin*, French, to mix; or rather corruptly pronounced for *miscellane*. See **MASLIN**.] Mixed corn: as, wheat and rie.

What reason is there which should but induce, and therefore much less enforce, us to think, that care of old dissimilitude between the people of God and the heathen nations about them, was any more the cause of forbidding them to put on garments of sundry stuff, than of charging them withal not to sow their fields with *meslin*.

Of wheat and of *meslin* untreshed go fave.

MESOLEUCYS. *n. f.* [*μεσολευς*, Gr.] A precious stone, black, with a streak of white in the middle.

MESOLOGARITHMS. *n. f.* [*μεσος*, *logos*, and *arithmos*, Gr.] The logarithms of the sines and tangents, so denominated by *Kepler*.

MESOMELAS. *n. f.* [*μεσολαυρος*, Gr.] A precious stone with a black vein parting every colour in the midst.

MESPRISE. *n. f.* [probably misprinted for *mesprise*; *mespris*, Fr.] Contempt; scorn.

Mammon was much displeas'd, yet note he chose
But bear the rigour of his bold *mesprise*,
And thence him forward led, him further to entice.

M E T

MESS. *n. f.* [*mes*, old French; *meſſo*, Italian; *miſſus*, Latin; *mes*, Gothick; *meſe*, Saxon, a diſh.] A diſh; a quantity of food ſent to table together.

The bounteous huſwife, nature, on each buſh
Lays her full *meſſ* before you. *Shakeſp. Timon of Athens*:

Now your traveller,
He and his toothpick at his worſhip's *meſſ*. *Shakeſpeare*.
I had as lief you ſhould tell me of a *meſſ* of porridge.
Shakeſpeare's Merry Wives of Winſdor.

Herbs, and other country *meſſ*,
Which the neat-handed Phillis dreſſes. *Milton*.
Had either of the crimes been cooked to their palates,
they might have changed *meſſes*. *Decay of Piety*.
From him he next receives it thick or thin, *Pope*.
As pure a *meſſ* almoſt as it came in.

To MEſſ. *v. n.* To eat; to feed.

MEſſAGE. *n. f.* [*meſſage*, Fr.] An errand; any thing committed to another to be told to the third.

She doth diſplay
The gate with pearls and rubies richly dight,
Through which her words to wiſe do make their way,
To hear the *meſſage* of her ſpright. *Spencer, Sonnet 81*.
May one, that is a herald and a prince,
Do a fair *meſſage* to his kingly ears! *Shakeſpeare*.
She is fair, and, fairer than that word,
Of wond'rous virtues; ſometimes from her eyes
I did receive fair ſpeechleſs *meſſages*. *Shakeſpeare*.
Gently haſt thou told
Thy *meſſage*, which might elſe in telling wound,
And in performing end. *Milton's Par. Loſt*, b. xi.
Let the miniſter be low, his intereſt inconfiderable, the
word will ſuffer for his ſake; the *meſſage* will ſtill find reception
according to the dignity of the meſſenger. *South*.
The welcome *meſſage* made, was ſoon receiv'd;
'Twas to be wiſh'd and hop'd, but ſcarce believ'd. *Dryden*.

MEſſENGER. *n. f.* [*meſſager*, French.] One who carries an errand; one who comes from another to a third; one who brings an account or foretoken of any thing; an harbinging; a forerunner.

Came running in, much like a man diſmaid,
A *meſſenger* with letters, which his *meſſage* ſaid. *Fla. Qu.*
Yon grey lines,
That fret the clouds, are *meſſengers* of day. *Shakeſpeare*.
Run after that fame peeviſh *meſſenger*,
The duke's man. *Shakeſpeare*.
The ear diſpatched *meſſengers* one after another to the king,
with an account of what he heard and believed he ſaw, and
yet thought not fit to ſtay for an answer. *Clarendon*.
Joy touch'd the *meſſenger* of heav'n; he ſay'd
Entranc'd, and all the bliſſful haunt ſurvey'd.

MEſſIAH. *n. f.* [from the Hebrew.] The Anointed; the Chriſt; the Saviour of the world; the Prince of peace.

Great and publick oppoſition the magiſtrates made againſt
Jeſus the man of Nazareth, when he appeared as the *Meſſiah*.
Watts's Improvement of the Mind.

MEſſIEURS. *n. f.* [Fr. plural of *monſieur*.] Sirs; gentlemen.

MEſſMATE. *n. f.* [*meſſ* and *mate*.] One who eats at the ſame table.

MEſſUAGE. *n. f.* [*meſſuagium*, law Latin; formed perhaps *meſnage* by miſtake of the *n* in court-hand for *u*, they being written alike, *meſnage* from *maison*, French.] The houſe and ground ſet apart for houſhold uſes.

MET, the preterite and part. of *meet*.

A ſet of very well-meaning gentlemen in England, not to be met with in other countries, take it for granted they can never be in the wrong ſo long as they can oppoſe miniſters of ſtate.
Addiſon's Freeholder, N^o. 48.

METAGRAMMATISM. *n. f.* [*μεταγραμματισμός*.]
Anagrammatiſm, or *metagrammatifm*, is a diſſolution of a name truly written into its letters, as its elements, and a new connexion of it by artificial tranſpoſition, without addition, ſubſtraction, or change of any letter into different words, making fome perfect ſenſe applicable to the perſon named.
Candour's Remains.

METABASIS. *n. f.* [Greek.] In rhetoric, a figure by which the orator paſſes from one thing to another.

METABOLA. *n. f.* [*μεταβολή*.] In medicine, a change of time, air, or diſeaſe.

METACARPUS. *n. f.* [*μετακαρπίον*.] In anatomy, a bone of the arm made up of four bones, which are joined to the fingers.

The conjunction is called ſynarthroſis; as in the joining of the carpus to the *metacarpus*,
Wiſeman's Surgery.

METACARPAL. *adj.* [from *metacarpus*.] Belonging to the *metacarpus*.

It will facilitate the ſeparation in the joint, when you cut the finger from the *metacarpal* bone. *Diſc.*
Sharpe's Surgery.

METAL. *n. f.* [*metal*, French; *metallum*, Latin.]
We underſtand by the term *metal* a firm, heavy, and hard ſubſtance, opaque, ſuſceptible by fire, and concreting again when
16 K cold